

REMARKS

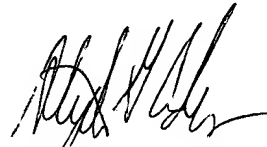
The above amendment is believed to place the claims in proper condition for examination.
Early and favorable action is awaited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

In the event there are any additional fees required, please charge our Deposit Account No.
01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN, HATTORI,
McLELAND & NAUGHTON, LLP



Stephen G. Adrian
Reg. No. 32,878

Atty. Docket No. 011755
Suite 1000
1725 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
Tel: (202) 659-2930
SGA/yap

Koichi NISHIMURA et al.

Docket No. 011755

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

The following claims have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A rubber composition for a hose, which comprises a nitrile rubber (A) comprising 45 to 55% by weight of α , β -ethylenically unsaturated nitrile monomer units and 55 to 45% by weight of conjugated diene monomer units, and epihalohydrin rubber (B), and at least one crosslinking agent selected from the group consisting of a crosslinking agent (C_A) for the nitrile rubber (A) ~~and/or~~ and a crosslinking agent (C_B) for the epihalohydrin rubber (B); the amount of the nitrile rubber (A) being in the range of 25 to 80% by weight based on the sum of the nitrile rubber (A) and the epihalohydrin rubber (B).

3. (Amended) The rubber composition according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the amount of at least one crosslinking agent selected from the group consisting of the crosslinking agent (C_A) for the nitrile rubber (A) ~~and/or~~ and the crosslinking agent (C_B) for the epihalohydrin rubber (B) is in the range of 0.1 to 8 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the sum of the nitrile rubber (A) and the epihalohydrin rubber (B).

4. (Amended) The rubber composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the nitrile rubber (A) has a Mooney viscosity of 25 to 100.

5. (Amended) The rubber composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1,

wherein the α , β -ethylenically unsaturated nitrile monomer is acrylonitrile or methacrylonitrile.

6. (Amended) The rubber composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein the conjugated diene monomer is 1, 3-butadiene, 2-methyl-1,3-butadiene, 1-3-pentadiene or 2-chloro-1, 3-butadiene.

7. (Amended) The rubber composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, wherein the epihalohydrin rubber (B) has a Mooney viscosity of 30 to 140.

8. (Amended) The rubber composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, wherein the epihalohydrin rubber (B) is a copolymer of an epihalohydrin monomer and an unsaturated epoxide monomer.

10. (Amended) The rubber composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, wherein the crosslinking agent (C_A) for the nitrile rubber is at least one crosslinking agent selected from the group consisting of a sulfur-containing crosslinking agent and an organic peroxide crosslinking agent.

11. (Amended) The rubber composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1, wherein the crosslinking agent (C_B) for the epihalohydrin rubber is at least one crosslinking agent selected from the group consisting of a thiourea, a triazine, a quinoxaline and an amine.